

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 - 15 (cancelled)

Claim 16 (currently amended) An isolated peptide ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of an amino acid sequence that (a) is identical to ~~or sufficiently similar to~~ an amino acid sequence occurring naturally in TGF β 1, ~~and/or~~ a type III TGF β 1 receptor or endoglin or comprises a sequence of at least 8 amino acids from SEQ ID NO: 2 or at least 6 amino acids from SEQ ID NO: 3, and (b) has ~~so as to have~~ antagonistic activity in preventing TGF β 1 from interacting with ~~the~~ a TGF β 1 receptor, said amino acid sequence consisting of ~~comprising~~ from 9 to 23 amino acids.

Claim 17 (currently amended) The isolated peptide of claim 16, wherein the amino acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1; SEQ ID NO: 2; SEQ ID NO: 3; SEQ ID NO: 4; SEQ ID NO: 5; SEQ ID NO: 6; SEQ ID NO: 7; SEQ ID NO: 8; and SEQ ID NO: 9 and SEQ ID NO: 10.

Claim 18 (previously presented) The isolated peptide of claim 17, wherein the amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 3.

Claim 19 (previously presented) The isolated peptide of claim 17, wherein the amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 4.

Claim 20 (previously presented) The isolated peptide of claim 17, wherein the amino acid

sequence is SEQ ID NO: 5.

Claim 21 (previously presented) The isolated peptide of claim 17, wherein the amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 6.

Claim 22 (previously presented) The isolated peptide of claim 17, wherein the amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 7.

Claim 23 (previously presented) The isolated peptide of claim 17, wherein the amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 8.

Claim 24 (previously presented) The isolated peptide of claim 17, wherein the amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 9.

Claim 25. (cancelled)

Claim 26. (withdrawn) A method for treating a liver disease in a patient comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of the isolated peptide of claim 16 or a composition comprising the isolated peptide of claim 16.

Claim 27 (withdrawn) The method according to claim 26, wherein the liver disease is hepatic fibrosis.

Claim 28 (withdrawn) A method for treating a liver disease in a patient comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of the isolated peptide of claim 17 or a composition comprising the isolated peptide of claim 17.

Claim 29 (withdrawn) The method according to claim 28, wherein the liver disease is hepatic fibrosis.

Claim 30 (withdrawn) A method for treating a liver disease in a patient comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of the isolated peptide of claim 21 or a composition comprising the isolated peptide of claim 21.

Claim 31 (withdrawn) The method according to claim 30, wherein the liver disease is hepatic fibrosis.

Claim 32 (new) The isolated peptide of claim 17, wherein the amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 33 (new) The isolated peptide of claim 17, wherein the amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 34 (new) The isolated peptide of claim 17, wherein the amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 10.